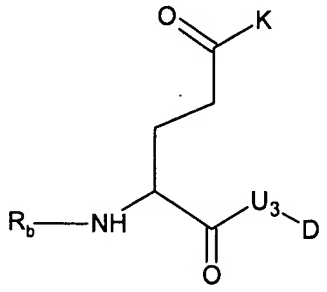
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound of Formula (I), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,



(I)

wherein:

R_b is a hydrogen or a lower alkyl group;

D is a hydrogen, V_3 or K;

U_3 is oxygen;

K is $-(W_3)_a$-E_b-$(C(R_e)(R_f))_{p1}$-E_c-$(C(R_e)(R_f))_x$-$(W_3)_d$-$(C(R_e)(R_f))_y$-$(W_3)_i$-E_j-$(W_3)_g$-$(C(R_e)(R_f))_z$-U_3-V_3;

V_3 is a hydrogen or $-NO_2$;

a, b, c, d, g, i and j are each independently an integer from 0 to 3;

p_1, x, y and z are each independently an integer from 0 to 10;

W_3 at each occurrence is independently -C(O)-, -C(S)-, $-T_3$-, $-(C(R_e)(R_f))_h$-, an alkyl group, or $-(CH_2CH_2O)_{q1}$-;

E at each occurrence is independently $-T_3$-, an alkyl group, an aryl group, $-(C(R_e)(R_f))_h$-, or $-(CH_2CH_2O)_{q1}$-;

T_3 at each occurrence is independently a covalent bond, a carbonyl, an oxygen, or $-N(R_a)R_i$;

h is an integer form 1 to 10;

q_1 is an integer from 1 to 5;

R_e and R_f are each independently a hydrogen, an alkyl, ~~a cycloalkoxy~~ $R_{54}O$-, a halogen, ~~a hydroxyl~~ -OH, an hydroxyalkyl, an alkoxyalkyl, an arylheterocyclic ring, an alkylaryl, an

alkylcycloalkyl, an alkylheterocyclic ring, a cycloalkylalkyl, ~~a cycloalkylthio~~ $R_{54}S$-, an arylalklythio, an arylalklythioalkyl, an alkylthioalkyl, a cycloalkenyl, an heterocyclicalkyl, ~~an alkoxy~~ $R_{50}O$-, a haloalkoxy, an amino, ~~an alkylamino~~ $R_{50}NH$-, ~~a dialkylamino~~ $R_{52}R_{53}N$-, ~~an arylamino~~ $R_{55}NH$-, ~~a diarylamino~~ $R_{55}R_{60}N$-, ~~an alkylarylamino~~ $R_{52}R_{55}N$-, an alkoxyhaloalkyl, ~~a sulfonic acid~~ $-S(O)_2OR_{76}$, ~~a sulfonic ester~~ $-S(O)_2OR_{58}$, an alkylsulfonic acid, an arylsulfonic acid, an arylalkoxy, ~~an alkylthio~~ $R_{50}S$-, ~~an arylthio~~ $R_{55}S$-, ~~a cyano~~ -CN, an aminoalkyl, an aminoaryl, an aryl, an arylalkyl, an alkylaryl, ~~a carboxamido~~ $-C(O)N(R_{51})(R_{57})$, a alkylcarboxamido, an arylcarboxamido, ~~an amidyl~~ $R_{51}C(O)N(R_{57})$-, ~~a carboxyl~~ $-C(O)OR_{76}$, ~~a carbamoyl~~ $-O-C(O)N(R_{51})(R_{57})$, an alkylcarboxylic acid, an arylcarboxylic acid, ~~an alkylcarbonyl~~ R_{52}-C(O)-, ~~an arylcarbonyl~~ R_{55}-C(O)-, ~~an ester~~ $R_{51}C(O)R_{76}$-, ~~a carboxylic ester~~ $-C(O)OR_{58}$, an alkylcarboxylic ester, an arylcarboxylic ester, ~~a sulfonamide~~ $-S(O)_2-N(R_{51})(R_{57})$, an alkylsulfonamido, an arylsulfonamido, ~~an alkylsulfonyl~~ R_{50}-$S(O)_2$-, ~~an alkylsulfonyloxy~~ R_{50}-$S(O)_2$-O-, ~~an arylsulfonyl~~ R_{55}-$S(O)_2$-, ~~arylsulphonyloxy~~ R_{55}-$S(O)_2$-O-, ~~a sulfonic ester~~ $-S(O)_2OR_{58}$, an alkyl ester, an aryl ester, ~~a urea~~ $-N(R_{59})$-$C(O)N(R_{51})(R_{57})$, ~~a phosphoryl~~ $-P(R_{70})(R_{71})(R_{72})$, ~~a nitro~~ $-NO_2$ or K; or R_e and R_f taken together with the carbons to which they are attached form ~~a carbonyl~~ -C(O)-, ~~a methanthial~~ -C(S)-, a heterocyclic ring, a cycloalkyl group, an aryl group, ~~an oxime~~ $=N-OR_{81}$, ~~a hydrazone~~ $=N-N(R_{81})(R'_{81})$ or a bridged cycloalkyl group;

R_{50} is an alkyl group;

R_{51}, R_{57}, and R_{59} are each independently a hydrogen atom, an alkyl group, an aryl group or an arylheterocyclic ring, or R_{51} and R_{57} taken together are a heterocyclic ring, a cycloalkyl group or a bridged cycloalkyl group;

R_{52} and R_{53} are each independently an alkyl group;

R_{54} is a cycloalkyl group or a bridged cycloalkyl group;

R_{55} and R_{60} are each independently an aryl group;

R_{58} is an alkyl group, an aryl group, or an aryl heterocyclic ring;

R_{70} is a lone pair of electrons, thial or oxo;

R_{71} and R_{72} are each independently a covalent bond, a hydrogen, a lower alkyl, an alkoxy, an alkylamino, a hydroxy, an oxy or an aryl;

R_{76} is a hydrogen, an organic cation or an inorganic cation;

$R_{76'}$ is oxygen or sulfur;

R_{81} is a hydrogen, an alkyl group, an aryl group, an alkylsulfonyl group, an arylsulfonyl group, a carboxylic ester, an alkylcarbonyl group, an arylcarbonyl group, a carboxamido group, an alkoxyalkyl group or an alkoxyaryl group;

R'_{81} is independently selected from R_{81};

R_a is a lone pair of electrons, a hydrogen or an alkyl group;

R_i is a hydrogen, an alkyl, an aryl, an alkylcarboxylic acid, an arylcarboxylic acid, an alkylcarboxylic ester, an arylcarboxylic ester, an alkylcarboxamido, an arylcarboxamido, an alkylaryl, an alkylsulfinyl, an alkylsulfonyl, an alkylsulfonyloxy, an arylsulfinyl, an arylsulfonyl, arylsulphonyloxy, a sulfonamido, a carboxamido, a carboxylic ester, an aminoalkyl, an aminoaryl, -CH_2-$C(U_3$-$V_3)(R_e)(R_f)$, a bond to an adjacent atom creating a double bond to that atom, -$(N_2O_2$-$)^-$ •M_1^+, wherein M_1^+ is an organic or inorganic cation; and

with the proviso that the compounds of Formula (I) must contain least one of a nitrate or a thionitrate group.

2. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein K is:

(1) –Y-$(CR_4R_4')_p$-T-$(CR_4R_4')_p$-ONO_2;

(2) –Y-$(CR_4C_4')_p$-V-B-T-$(CR_4R_4')_p$-ONO_2;

(3) –Y-$(CR_4R_4')_p$-T-C(O)-$(CR_4R_4')_k$-(CH_2)-ONO_2;

(4) –Y-$(CR_4R_4')_p$-C(Z)-$(CH_2)_q$-T-$(CR_4R_4')_q$-(CH_2)-ONO_2;

(5) –Y-$(CR_4R_4')_p$-T-$(CH_2)_q$-V-$(CR_4R_4')_q$-(CH_2)-ONO_2;

(6) –Y-$(CR_4R_4')_p$-V-$(CH_2)_q$-V-$(CR_4R_4')_q$-(CH_2)-ONO_2;

(7) –Y-$(CR_4R_4')_k$-$(W)_q$-$(CR_4R_4')_k$-(CH_2)-ONO_2;

(8) –NR_j-O-$(CH_2)_k$-V-$(CR_4R_4')_q$-(CH_2)-ONO_2;

(9) –NR_j-O-$(CH_2)_k$-$(W)_q$-$(CR_4R_4')_q$-(CH_2)-ONO_2;

(10) –O-NR_j-$(CH_2)_k$-$(W)_q$-$(CR_4R_4')_q$-(CH_2)-ONO_2;

(11) –Y-$(CH_2)_k$-$(W)_q$-$(CH_2)_k$-V-$(CR_4R_4')_k$-Q'-$(CR_4R_4')_k$-(CH_2)-ONO_2;

(12) $-Y-(CR_4R_4')_p-V-(CH_2)_k-(W)_q-(CR_4R_4')_q-(CH_2)-ONO_2$;

(13) $-O-NR_j-(CH_2)_k-V-(CR_4R_4')_q-(CH_2)-ONO_2$;

(14) $-Y-(CR_4R_4')_k-Q'-(CR_4R_4')_k-V-(CR_4R_4')_k-(CH_2)-ONO_2$;

(15) $-Y-(CR_4R_4')_k-Q'-(CR_4R_4')_k-(W)_q-(CR_4R_4')_k-(CH_2)-ONO_2$;

(16) $-Y-(CR_4R_4')_p-T-(CR_4R_4')_p-Q'-(CR_4R_4')_k-(CH_2)-ONO_2$;

(17) $-Y-(CR_4R_4')_q-C(Z)-(CR_4R_4')_k-(CH_2)-ONO_2$;

(18) $-Y-(CR_4R_4')_p-Q'-(CR_4R_4')_k-(CH_2)-ONO_2$;

(19) $-Y-(CR_4R_4')_q-P(O)MM'$;

(20) $-Y-(CR_4R_4')_k-Q'-(CR_4R_4')_k-(CH_2)-ONO_2$;

(21) $-Y-(CR_4R_4')_k-Q'-(CR_4R_4')_k-T-(CR_4R_4')_k-(CH_2)-ONO_2$;

(22) $-Y-(CR_4R_4')_q-(W)_q-(CR_4R_4')_k-Q'-(CR_4R_4')_k-(CH_2)-ONO_2$;

(23) $-Y-(CR_4R_4')_q-V-(CR_4R_4')_k-Q'-(CR_4R_4')_k-(CH_2)-ONO_2$;

(24) $-Y-(CR_4R_4')_p-(T)_o-(W)_q-(CR_4R_4')_k-(CH_2)-ONO_2$;

(25) $-Y-(CR_4R_4')_p-(W)_q-(T)_o-(CR_4R_4')_k-(CH_2)-ONO_2$;

(26) $-Y-(CR_4R_4')_q-C(Z)-V-(CR_4R_4')_q-(CH_2)-ONO_2$;

(27) $-Y-(CR_4R_4')_k-C(R_4)(ONO_2)-(CR_4R_4')_q-(T)_o-(W)_q-(T)_o-(CR_4R_4')_k-R_5$;

(28) $-Y-(CR_4R_4')_k-V-(CR_4R_4')_k-Q'-(CR_4R_4')_k-(CH_2)-ONO_2$;

(29) $-Y-(CR_4R_4')_q-C(Z)-Q'-(CR_4R_4')_k-(CH_2)-ONO_2$;

(30) $-Y-(CR_4R_4')_p-V-(CR_4R_4')_p-(CH_2)-ONO_2$;

(31) $-Y-(CR_4R_4')_p-V-(CH_2)_q-(T)_o-(CR_4R_4')_q-(CH_2)-ONO_2$;

(32) $-Y-(CR_4R_4')_p-(T)_o-Q'-(T)_o-(CR_4R_4')_q-(CH_2)-ONO_2$;

(33) $-Y-(CR_4R_4')_q-C(Z)-(CR_4R_4')_q-V-(CR_4R_4')_k-Q'-(CR_4R_4')_k-(CH_2)-ONO_2$;

(34) $-Y-(CR_4R_4')_q-C(Z)-(CR_4R_4')_q-(W)_q-(CR_4R_4')_k-Q'-(CR_4R_4')_k-(CH_2)-ONO_2$;

(35) $-NR_j-O-(CH_2)_k-V-(CR_4R_4')_k-Q'-(CH_2)-ONO_2$;

(36) $-NR_j-O-(CH_2)_k-(W)_q-(CR_4R_4')_k-Q'-(CH_2)-ONO_2$;

(37) $-O-NR_j-(CH_2)_k-(W)_q-(CR_4R_4')_k-Q'-(CH_2)-ONO_2$;

(38) $-O-NR_j-(CH_2)_k-V-(CR_4R_4')_k-Q'-(CH_2)-ONO_2$;

(39) $-NR_j-NR_j-(CR_4R_4')_p-(W)_q-(T)_o-(CR_4R_4')_k-(CH_2)-ONO_2$; or

(40) $-Y-(CR_4R_4')_k-Q'-(CR_4R_4')_k-ONO_2$; or

(41) $-Y-(CR_4R_4')_k-V-(CR_4R_4')_k-Q-(CR_4R_4')_k-ONO_2$;

R_4 and R_4' at each occurrence are independently a hydrogen, lower alkyl group, -OH, $-CH_2OH$, $-ONO_2$, $-NO_2$ or $-CH_2ONO_2$;

V is -C(O)-T-, -T-C(O)-, -T-C(O)-T or T-C(O)-C(O)-T;

W is a covalent bond or a carbonyl group;

T at each occurrence is independently an oxygen, or NR_j;

R_j is a hydrogen, an alkyl group, an aryl group, a heterocyclic ring, an alkylcarbonyl group, an alkylaryl group, an alkylsulfinyl group, an alkylsulfonyl group, an arylsulfinyl group, an arylsulfonyl group, a sulfonamido group, a N-alkylsulfonamido group, a N,N-diarylsulfonamido group, a N-arylsulfonamido group, a N-alkyl-N-arylsulfonamido group, a carboxamido group or a hydroxyl group;

p at each occurrence is independently an integer from 1 to 6;

q at each occurrence is independently an integer from 1 to 3;

o at each occurrence is independently an integer from 0 to 2;

k at each occurrence is independently an integer from 0 to 4;

Y is independently a covalent bond, a carbonyl, an oxygen, $-S(O)_o-$ or $-NR_j$;

B is either phenyl or $(CH_2)_o$;

Q' is a cycloalkyl group, a heterocyclic ring or an aryl group;

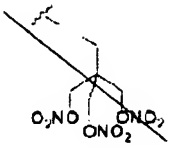
Z is (=O), $(=N-OR_5)$, $(=N-NR_5R'_5)$ or $(=CR_5R'_5)$;

M and M' are each independently $-O^- H_3N^+-(CR_4R'_4)_q-CH_2ONO_2$ or $-T-(CR_4R'_4)_k-CH_2ONO_2$; and

R_5 and R_5' at each occurrence are independently a hydrogen, a hydroxyl group, an alkyl group, an aryl group, an alkylsulfonyl group, an arylsulfonyl group, a carboxylic ester, an alkylcarbonyl group, an arylcarbonyl group, a carboxamido group, an alkoxyalkyl group, an alkoxyaryl group, a cycloalkyl group or a heterocyclic ring.

5. (Currently amended) The compound of claim 1, wherein K is:

~~(1)~~



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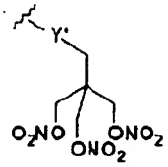

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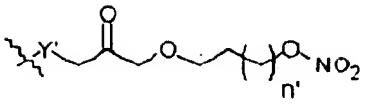

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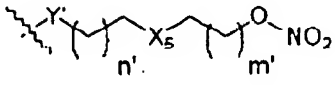

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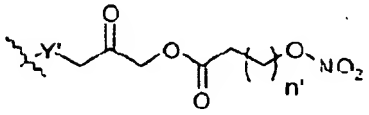

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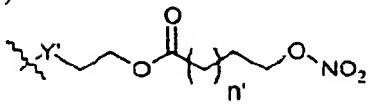

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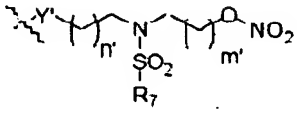

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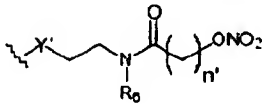

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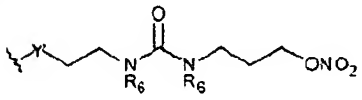

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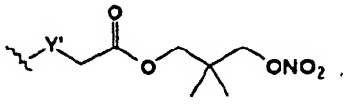

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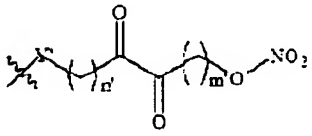

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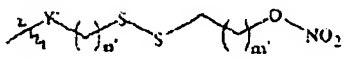

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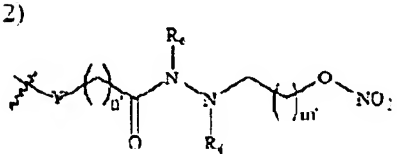

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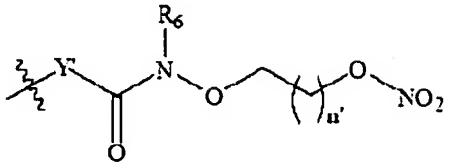

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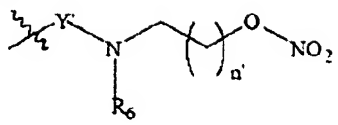

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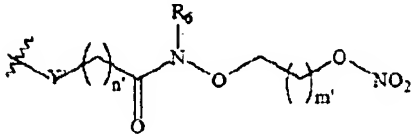

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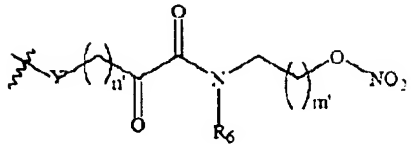

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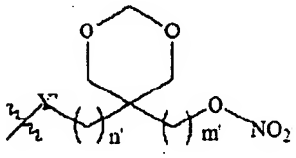

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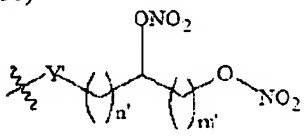

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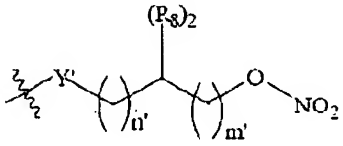

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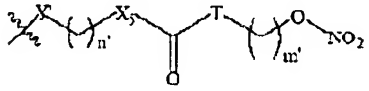

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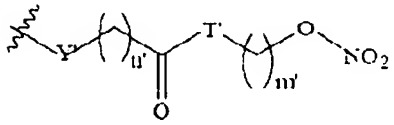

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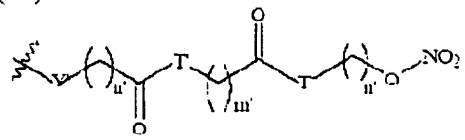

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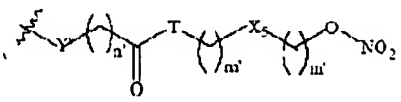

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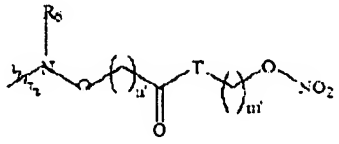

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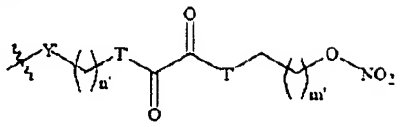

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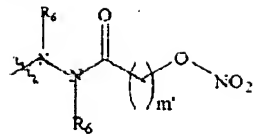

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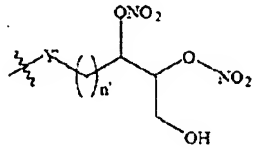

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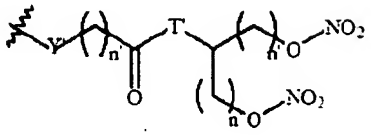

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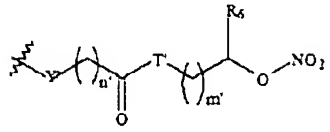


wherein:

Y' a covalent bond, a carbonyl, an oxygen, or $-NR_6$;

T' is oxygen, or NR_6;

X_5 is oxygen, or NR_6;

R_6 is a hydrogen, a lower alkyl group, an aryl group;

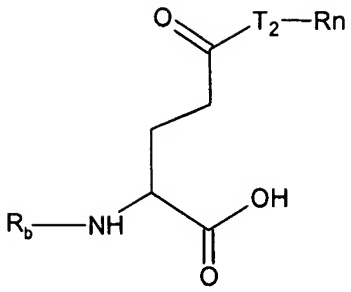
R_7 is a lower alkyl group or an aryl group;

R_8 at each occurrence is independently [[is]] a hydrogen, a hydroxyl group, a lower alkyl group, an aryl group, $-NO_2$, $-CH_2-ONO_2$ or $-CH_2-OH$;

n' and m' are each independently an integer from 0 to 10.

6. (Currently Amended) The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound of Formula (I) is a compound of Formula (II), or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

wherein the compound of Formula (II) is:

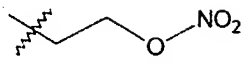


(II)

wherein

R_n is

(1)



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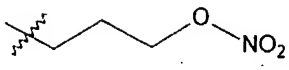

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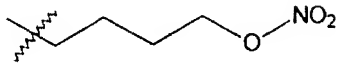

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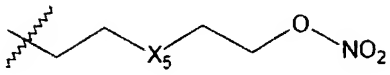

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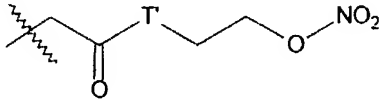

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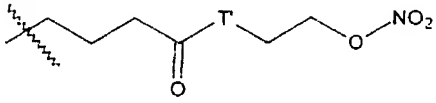

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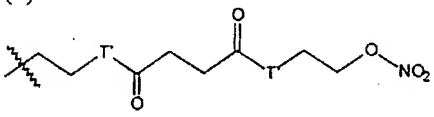

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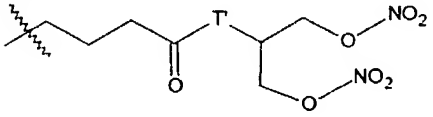

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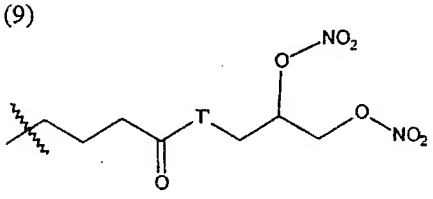

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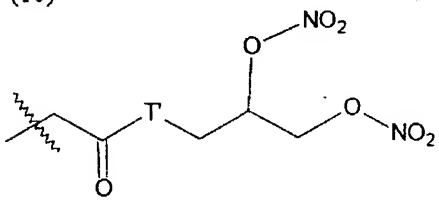

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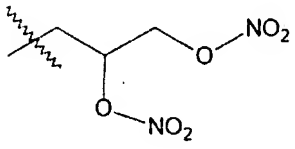

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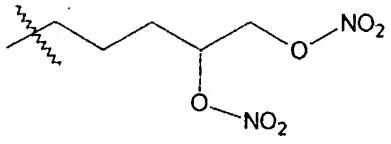

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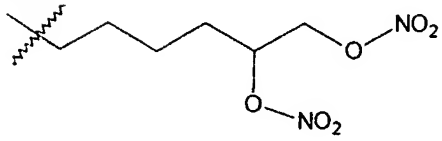

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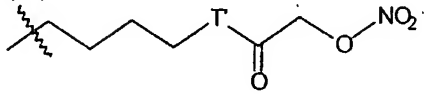

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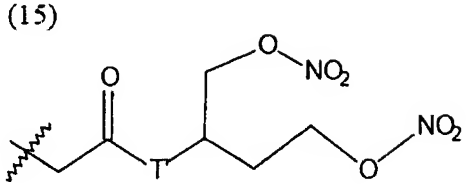

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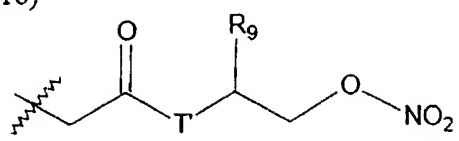

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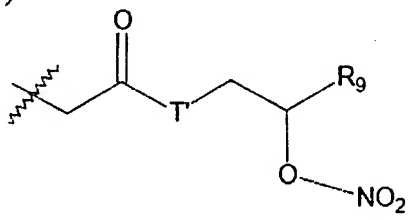

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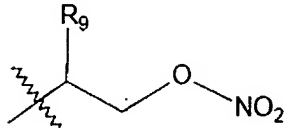

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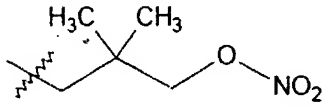

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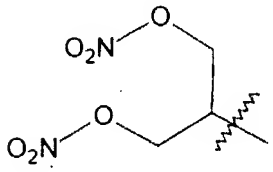

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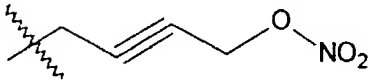

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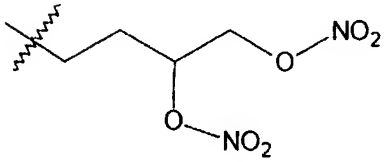

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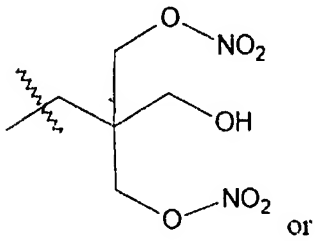
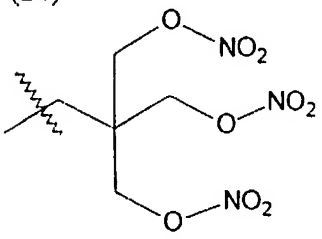


or

(24)



R_9 is a lower alkyl group or an aryl group;

T_2 is oxygen, sulfur, NR_6 or $N(R_{10})(R_{11})$;

R_{10} and R_{11} taken together are a heterocyclic ring; and

X_5, R_b and R_6 are as defined herein.

7– 26 (Cancelled).

27. (Previously Presented) A compound selected from the group consisting of:
4-{{(2R)-2,3-bis(nitrooxy)propyl]oxycarbonyl}(2S)-2-aminobutanoic acid, hydrochloride salt;
(2S)-2-amino-4-{[2-(nitrooxy)ethyl]oxycarbonyl}butanoic acid, 2,2,2-trifluoroacetic acid;
(2S)-2-amino-4-[(2-(nitrooxy)ethyl]sulfonyl}ethyl)oxycarbonyl] butanoic acid, hydrochloride salt;
(2S)-4-{[(2S)-2,3-bis(nitrooxy)propyl]oxycarbonyl}-2-aminobutanoic acid, hydrochloride salt;
(2S)-2-amino-4-{N-[3-(nitrooxy)propyl]carbamoyl}butanoic acid, hydrochloride salt;
(2S)-2-amino-4-{N-[2,2-dimethyl-3-(nitrooxy)propyl]carbamoyl} butanoic acid, hydrochloride salt;
(2S)-2-amino-4-{[3-(nitrooxy)propyl]oxycarbonyl}butanoic acid, hydrochloride salt;
(2S)-2-amino-4-(N-{2-[2-(nitrooxy)ethoxy]ethyl}carbamoyl)butanoic acid, hydrochloride salt;
(2S)-2-amino-4-({2-(nitrooxy)-1-[(nitrooxy)methyl]ethyl} oxycarbonyl)butanoic acid, hydrochloride salt;
(2S)-2-amino-4-{[2,2-dimethyl-3-(nitrooxy)propyl]oxycarbonyl} butanoic acid, hydrochloride salt;
tert-butyl (2S)-2-[(tert-butoxy)carbonylamino]-4-(N-{2-(nitrooxy)-1-[(nitrooxy)methyl]ethyl}carbamoyl)butanoate;
(2S)-2-amino-4-{[4-(nitrooxy)but-2-ynyl]oxycarbonyl}butanoic acid, hydrochloride salt
(2S)-4-{N-[(2S)-2,3-bis(nitrooxy)propyl]carbamoyl}-2-aminobutanoic acid, hydrochloride salt;
4-{[(3R)-3,4-bis(nitrooxy)butyl]oxycarbonyl}(2S)-2-aminobutanoic acid, hydrochloride salt;
(2S)-2-amino-4-({2,2-bis[(nitrooxy)methyl]-3-hydroxypropyl} oxycarbonyl)butanoic acid, hydrochloride salt;
(2S)-2-amino-4-({2,2-bis[(nitrooxy)methyl]-3-(nitrooxy)propyl}oxycarbonyl)butanoic acid, hydrochloride salt;
(2S)-2-amino-4-{[4,5-bis(nitrooxy)pentyl]oxycarbonyl}butanoic acid, hydrochloride salt.